



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**PORTSMOUTH MEN CHARGED IN FEDERAL MURDER-FOR-HIRE  
AND WITNESS TAMPERING CONSPIRACY**

**Re: United States v. Matthew Senior and United States v. Harold Sargent**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge, Leo Ducey, and Portsmouth Police Chief Michael Magnant, announce that Matthew Senior and Harold Sargent, both of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, were charged by complaint today in U.S. District Court, Concord, New Hampshire, on federal murder-for-hire and witness tampering conspiracy charges.

Defendant Matthew Senior is currently incarcerated in the Essex County Jail in Middleton, Massachusetts, as a federal detainee facing drug and firearms charges in the United States District Court in Concord, New Hampshire. The complaint against Senior charges that during Senior's pretrial detention, he entered into a conspiracy with Harold Sargent, the object of which was to hire a third party to murder a witness against Senior in his pending drug and firearms case.

The criminal complaints against Senior and Sargent were issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead, and charge each of them with using interstate commerce facilities with the intent that a murder-for-hire be committed, and with conspiring to kill a witness in an official proceeding. The affidavit in support of the complaint remains under seal in the District Court. Both face a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment on the murder-for-hire charge, and a maximum of life imprisonment on the witness tampering charge.

The charge against the two resulted from an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Portsmouth Police Department, the Essex County (Massachusetts) Sheriff's Office Detective Division, the Essex County District Attorney's Office Detective Unit, and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Detective Unit. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Mark Howard.

A complaint is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all cases, each defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.